



RHEA ECONOMIC & TOURISM COUNCIL, INC.

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May 27, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Meredith Allwell Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As Executive Director of the Rhea Economic & Tourism Council (RETC), I am writing to ask for your support of the announced merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. As the primary agency responsible for recruiting new industry in Rhea County, Tennessee, I am confident this proposed merger will bring much needed technology and needed economic development potential to our area.

RETC was created in 1986, providing assistance to existing industries in Rhea County Tennessee. The Council is a public/private partnership governed by a 31-member board made up of Rhea County citizens and elected officials. We are confident that with these two companies coming together, our area will benefit and grow.

High-speed mobile broadband is a technology that rural counties like Rhea are in need of to become more competitive in this global marketplace. Broadband technologies are no longer delivered solely through cable and fiber. It is transmittable through the same technology that we use for our mobile phones. As the demand for data continues to grow, service providers need more capacity to help serve our needs. This spectrum crunch is real, and the combination of spectrum between AT&T and T-Mobile is a great solution.

Having served as a member of the Industrial Development Board for 19 years, and the Rhea Economic & Tourism Council for 8 years, I know what can help grow our economy. I am confident the combination of these two companies will provide a great opportunity for economic growth and development for our area. Again, I encourage you to support this merger.

Sincerely,

Raymond Walker  
Executive Director, Rhea Economic & Tourism Council

